

cajm

Campaign Against the Levels Motorway

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The Public Inquiry draws to a close

A huge volume of evidence has now been presented to the Inquiry. The sittings were expected to have finished by now, but further discussions continue, with the Welsh Government seeking a deal with Associated British Ports. At present ABP are objecting – the M4 Black Route destroys the prospects for Newport Docks. If a deal can be struck, the cost of the road to the Welsh taxpayer will reach even more astronomical levels, starving the rest of the country of investment. Surely the best solution is **#NoNewM4!**

The evidence to the Inquiry has covered all angles, from debunking the claims of the Welsh Government on road safety (accident rates on the M4 at Newport are actually below motorway averages) to highlighting how road-building creates traffic (which worsens bottlenecks elsewhere while the new road itself fills up). Many individuals and groups have put forward cases which provide a compelling justification of CALM's position – **a new M4 won't work, wastes a huge amount of public money and will unacceptably damage both the Gwent Levels and the global climate.**

Some of these arguments, and many more besides, are in the joint Closing Statement of The Wildlife Trusts, Friends of the Earth, CPRW and the Woodland Trust, which is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/M4statement>

For the latest on the Inquiry programme, or any other information, then see the dedicated website: <http://m4-newport.persona-pi.com/> or contact Joanna Vincent, Programme Officer on 07483 133975. The Inspector will produce their Report on the Inquiry some time during 2018.

More road capacity – only ever a last resort

The Campaign for Better Transport has showed this more clearly than ever with their latest collation of evidence. See this on the CBT website at: <http://tinyurl.com/roadslastresort>

A new direction for the campaign

In October, CALM decided to set up three sub-groups for the post-Inquiry campaigning that will be essential to convince the public and politicians to accept an Inspector's Report that questions the merit of a new M4. The groups cover:

- Direct political influencing – led by Catherine: catherinelinstrum@me.com
- Making our arguments across Wales – led by Natasha: natasha.yorke-edgell@rspb.org.uk
- Local grassroots campaigning – led by Sarah: sharris@gwentwildlife.org

Please roll up your sleeves and get involved with the work of one of these sub-groups:

– **the Gwent Levels need you!**

Have you signed the petition?

<https://tinyurl.com/M4petition>

Keep in touch

You can contact CALM through social media, by emailing savethegwentlevels@gmail.com or writing to Gwent Wildlife Trust who will forward on any correspondence. If you've not had this newsletter directly from us, we've not got your address on our mailing list.

If you want to get even more involved, please let us know and we'll give you details of our meetings which take place every six to eight weeks in Newport. We also need people just like you to be involved in the work of the three sub-groups (see the note at the head of this column).

Social media

The CALM facebook and twitter accounts are great places for you to highlight why you are against a new M4. It is all too easy for our voices to be drowned out by those saying we need new roads – and who don't realise that new roads generate more traffic. We are [@CalmCampaign](https://twitter.com/CalmCampaign) on twitter, and to find us on facebook please visit <https://tinyurl.com/NoNewM4fb>

Help Gwent Wildlife Trust help Water Voles



Gwent Wildlife Trust needs us to **#VoteVoles**, by **noon on Tuesday 21st November**, to get Aviva Community Fund support for their water vole work on the Gwent Levels.

Each email address registered gets 10 votes, and you can put all of them towards the voles. To register and vote visit: <http://tinyurl.com/votevoles>

© CALM, November 2017. With thanks to everyone who is doing so much to ensure a better future for the Gwent Levels, local people & wildlife, and Wales & the world.